
Crankcase Ventilation Valves

When the motor is running, a certain amount of air and fuel mixture leaks through the piston rings and into the crankcase. This escaping gas, combined with the lubricant fumes that are produced in the crankcase, could create high internal pressure. To avoid this possibility, these gases are recycled back to the intake manifold and they pass into the cylinders to participate in the combustion once again. This process is controlled by the Positive Crankcase Ventilation system, which consists of the breather valve, the oil separator and tubing.

The breather valve is usually located on the valve cover and near the intake manifold. It is operated by vacuum and it is designed to close off when the pressure in the intake manifold is higher than the pressure in the crankcase, to prevent the return of gases in the crankcase. A faulty breather valve can cause unstable idling, poor engine performance and a “whistling” noise from the intake.

